



Take a tour of military golf courses around Oahu... A-4

HAWAII'S NAVY NEWS



USS Frederick Sailors return to Pearl Harbor, families... B-1

Volume 26 Issue 35

Serving the 'Best Homeport in the Navy'

September 7, 2001

Frederick returns from WESTPAC deployment

JO3 Tim Walsh
Staff Writer

USS Frederick (LST 1184) returned to Pearl Harbor Aug. 31 after a five-month Western Pacific (WESTPAC) deployment. Friends and family members greeted the nearly 250 Sailors and Marines from Frederick at the pier. "It has been a long couple of months," said Mike Peace who held a sign welcoming USS Frederick and his father, Electronics Technician 1st Class Robert Lehr. "I'm just glad to have him back safe-

ly." For some, the return of Frederick's crew was the first meeting between father and child. This was the case for Electrician's Mate 1st Class (SW) Cesaro Roxas and his 2-month-old daughter. Roxas' wife was glad to have him back for several reasons. "I missed him a lot. I'm so happy he's back safe and sound, but I plan on getting some rest. He'll be up with the baby tonight," said Analiza Roxas. Another new dad, Engineman 2nd Class (SW) Christopher Rogers, returned home to a 9-day-old daughter. "I wish I was here for

the baby's birth. I'm just so excited to be back," said Rogers as he held his daughter for the first time. The homecoming was a joyful and well-earned return from deployment for the Sailors of USS Frederick. The tank landing ship made many port visits, provided great training opportunities for the Philippine, Thailand and Republic of Korea (ROK) navies and met its mission to establish and solidify our international relations with various countries in Southeast Asia. Sailors from the ROK Navy and mid-shipmen from the Korean Naval Academy

toured the U.S. Navy's only tank landing ship June 18 while it visited Chinhae, South Korea. Before exercise Cobra Gold in mid-May, four Thai officers embarked on Frederick for a month to familiarize themselves with the ship's amphibious operational mission. During the annual cross-training exercise, which encompassed all facets of military training, including special warfare, amphibious, air, land and maritime training with the Royal Thai Navy and Marine Corps, Frederick assumed tactical com-
▼ See FREDERICK, A-4

'Connie' Battle Group visits Pearl Harbor



JO2 Jim Williams photo

USS Constellation (CV 64) passes by the USS Arizona Memorial on its way to Hotel piers Wednesday morning. The USS Constellation Battle Group arrived in Pearl Harbor earlier this week for a brief port visit as they return home to San Diego from a six-month deployment. The visiting battle group includes USS Kinkaid (DD 965), USS Thach (FFG 43), and USS Benfold (DDG 65). Ship tours - While in port, the aircraft carrier will be open for tours to those with base access today from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and tomorrow from 9 a.m. to noon. The carrier is berthed at the Hotel piers located near Halawa Gate. To access the base, visitors must possess a valid DoD ID card and vehicle decal. The Chilean tall ship Esmeralda will also be open for tours on Saturday (See A-10 for more tour info).

NEX breaks ground on Holomoku mini mart

JO2 Jim Williams
Staff Writer

Taking care of our sailors. That was the theme Aug. 28 at the groundbreaking ceremony on Naval Station Pearl Harbor for the new Navy Exchange (NEX) Holomoku mini mart. The name "Holomoku" (which translates to "mariner" in Hawaiian) was selected to honor those who will be the primary customers of the new store. The mini mart will replace the existing 6,250 square foot NEX mini mart located in building 693, originally constructed in 1943. Work on the new 9,600 square-foot facility began in August and is expected to cost approximately \$1.8 million. The Holomoku mini mart is being constructed as a steel frame building on a concrete slab foundation located on the corner of Shane Street and Holomoku. The modern facility will help to improve quality of life in the Navy community.

The location was chosen to provide convenient access to NEX retail and services operations for more than 5,000 Sailors living in adjacent bachelor quarters as well as those stationed aboard Naval ships and subs or who work on the north end of Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

The new facility will include a mini mart, barber shop, Seattle's Best coffee shop, Subway, and an NEX services shop with a video rental, laundry and dry cleaning service. There will also be a Navy Federal Credit Union 24-hour ATM.

The Hawaii District Navy Exchange and Navy Region Hawaii submitted the construction project to Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) for approval in July 1999. NEXCOM approved funding for this project in January 2001 as a fiscal year

▼ See MINI MART, A-13

Secretary of the Navy spells out his ideas for the Navy

JO1 Craig P. Strawser
Naval Media Center

Part Two: Editor's note: The following story is part two in a two part series from the Secretary of the Navy, Gordon R. England. Part one ran in last Friday's Hawaii Navy News. When he testified to Congress, Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England made it a point to talk about the importance of treating everyone with dignity and respect. This is an issue that SECNAV is passionate about. "I believe that it is important in all successful organizations to provide an environment where people can excel," he said. If people can

personally excel at whatever they do, then the organization will excel. It's very important to have an environment that they can excel in." He said that a large part of creating that environment is treating everyone with dignity and respect. "An important attribute of that is the understanding that no one person is more important than anyone else," England added. "When I was in my commercial business a short while ago, I used the military as an example to help people understand this concept. In the military, you salute the rank, not the person. It is the positions that are important. Some positions are more important than others are because there is authority and re-

sponsibilities that go with that position, but no one person is more important than anyone else. "This sets the way we should deal with everyone. We should treat everyone with dignity and respect, all the time. This has been a tenant of my beliefs for a long time. It is very important to me, that all of our people have the opportunity to personally excel." England added that every time he gives a talk and every time he has an opportunity to meet with Sailors or the leadership, he emphasizes this point. "Another part of my beliefs is that everybody born on this earth is equal. I say that because we all have about the same amount of time. That time is not re-

newable. Once you spend it, you never get it back." SECNAV said that when men and women give that time to their nation, in the military, they are making a conscious choice to give up a portion of their lives in defense of the ideals of this nation and the people of the world. "What better thing can they give?" he asked. "I sincerely appreciate what people do every day for our military, our nation and for all the people of the world. Not only do I appreciate it, I believe there is a grateful nation that appreciates what they do every day. I thank them for their efforts." So what does the new Secretary

▼ See SECNAV, A-12

VJ Day 56th anniversary commemorated on Battleship Missouri Memorial

JO3 Sunday Sawyer
Staff Writer

"It is an honor to be a speaker here on this day in our nation's history. The Missouri symbolizes the triumph of the American fighting spirit, the spirit that was able to overcome catastrophic loss at Pearl Harbor and reign victorious in the Pacific," said Rear Adm. Kenneth L. Fisher, USNR Deputy and Chief of Staff of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, as he presented the keynote remarks at a ceremony Sept. 2 aboard the fantail of the historic Battleship Missouri. The occasion commemorated the 56th anniversary of the signing of the surrender documents and the subsequent end of World War II. "It is that spirit that survives in the legacy of our WWII veterans and keeps our nation great today," added Fisher. The event, "A Tradition of Honor," was a tribute to all World War II veterans who served America with distinction and honor and celebration of "Victory over Japan Day", also known as VJ Day. John D. "Jack" Shelley, special guest speaker, was a former wartime radio correspon-

dent who shared his experiences of witnessing and reporting on the Sept. 2, 1945 surrender ceremony. This was Shelley's first time aboard the Mighty Mo since that day. "I am so impressed with how beautiful the ship is today and the memories that are attached to being here are so overpowering," said Shelley. Shelley also stated that he hopes to see the Missouri get more financial support so the memorial can "do the job that she is meant to... to inform people of important history." He also felt that it was very appropriate to see the Missouri and the Arizona in the harbor together, signifying the beginning and the end of the war. The ceremony featured a traditional 21-gun salute from Pearl Harbor's honor guard to honor WWII veterans. Participation by the recently-activated Battleship Missouri Sea Cadet Division was also a treat to visitors and guests. The U.S. Pacific Fleet Band performed patriotic music, and Keith and Carmen Haugen performed the victory song "Mokukaua".
▼ See MISSOURI, A-3



JO3 Sunday Sawyer photo

Navy Region Hawaii's Ceremonial Guard Detachment renders honors during the VJ Day 56th anniversary ceremony aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial Sept. 2. USS Missouri was the site where the Japanese signed the Instrument of Surrender ending World War II in 1945.